

The immigration system in the United States is broken. Prior to the recession, illegal immigration into the United States reached all-time highs. While most Americans can trace immigrant roots at some point in their family history, illegal immigration is undermining the rule of law, threatening the safety of our neighborhoods, and placing incredible costs on our communities and American taxpayers. I believe it is imperative that our nation secure its borders and enforce the immigration laws already on the books. Further, I oppose amnesty for illegal immigrants and will vote against any comprehensive immigration reform legislation unless I am fully satisfied that it strengthens border security and prevents future illegal immigration.

At the same time, I believe Congress must establish a workable and closely monitored temporary worker program. Many farmers in Northern California have told me that they need access to a legal workforce for their seasonal labor needs. Unfortunately, the programs currently in effect are inefficient and cumbersome. It is therefore critical that potential immigration reform include an effective worker program that requires legal entry into our nation and ensures that immigrant workers return home immediately after their short-term service is complete.

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